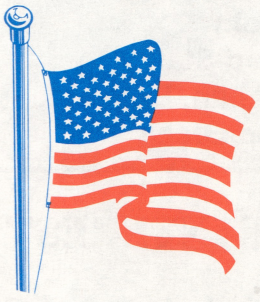
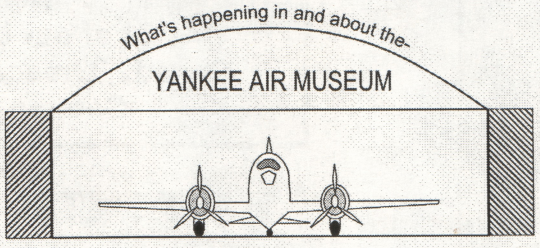
The Newsletter of the Yankee Air Force





Hangar Happenin's

What's happenin' this month?

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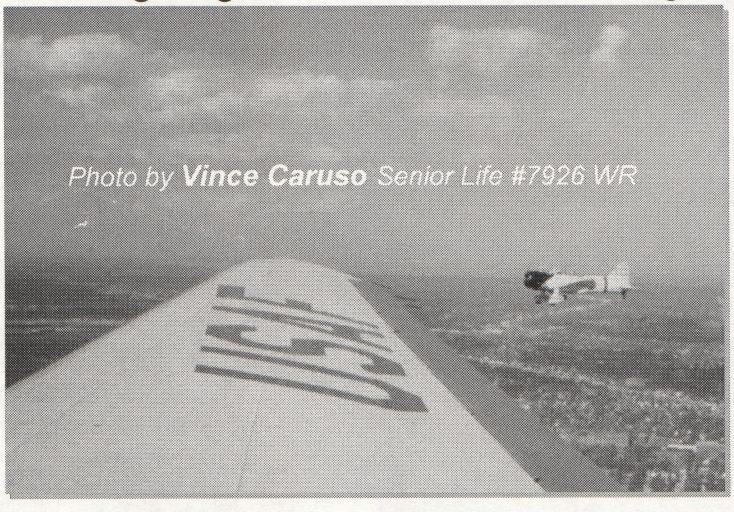
Gathering of Fighters Photo of the Month Page 5



Air Display 2002 ***Salute to Freedom*** Page 8
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Our *Home Front* **Victory Garden** Page 11

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY !

Join us on the web: www.yankeeairmuseum.org

July 2002

YANKEE AIR FORCE, INC.
A Non-Profit Organization
501(c)(3)
2041 A Street - East Access
Willow Run Airport
Belleville, Michigan

Hangar Happenin's is a monthly newsletter of the Yankee Air Force.

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1919 - 2000

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Brian Higgins
Dave Sunday
Bill Colwell
Nancy Lockwood
Ray Hunter
John Day
Dick Stewart
Paul Chu Lin
Tony Hurst

MEETING SCHEDULE

1st Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
General Membership
All Members & Guests Welcome

2nd Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
Flyable Aircraft Meeting
Everyone Welcome

3rd Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
Board Meeting
Public Welcome

MUSEUM HOURS

10 - 4 TUESDAY - SATURDAY
12 - 4 SUNDAY
CLOSED MONDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Phone: (734) 483 - 4030
Fax: (734) 483 - 5076

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Visitors to our Museum
during the month of
May 2002
were from
21 of our United States,
Canada, Greece, Japan, England,
Germany and Brazil

PAST DATES OF INTEREST

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

4 July 1942 First B-17 arrived in England

10 July 1965 First USAF Vietnam War victories: two F-4Cs down two MiG-17s

11 July 1955 First United States Air Force Academy class sworn in

17 July 1989 First flight of the B-2 Stealth Bomber

20 July 1969 Astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin make first walk on Earth's moon

21 July 1961 Captain Virgil "Gus" Grissom first USAF astronaut in space

27 July 1953 Fighting ends and truce signed in Korea

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Winner of the 50/50 drawing at our June meeting was

TED DREWS

Our internet address is
http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org

Our e-mail address is
yankeeairmuseum@provide.net

Hangar Happenin's e-mail address is
yankeeairmuseum@provide.net

The Room 216 Report

*by **Jon Stevens** L 4172 WR*

A lot of behind the scenes planning goes on before an event takes place. Tasks are defined, manpower needs are assessed, people are assigned to one or more specific jobs, and more than a few prayers for strength and wisdom are offered.

Afterwards, there are meetings to evaluate how the event did as a whole. From the perspective of 20-20 hindsight, improvements are suggested, less-than-successful aspects are either tightened up or dropped, and possible new ideas are put in place for next time.

We had three big events at the hangar in May that I'd like to tell you about. The first two events are (we hope!) new traditions for our own benefit, and the last is an old one. All had their successes and shortcomings, but in the end, each came off very well.

The accompanying comments are strictly my own opinions, and are in no way intended as criticisms of the event coordinators.

As we all know, volunteers are the lifeblood of the museum. As Marketing Department Chair, **Brian Higgins** is always looking for new ways in increase membership and visitorship. For the first May event, he wanted to do something different - "pitch" volunteering at the museum to existing members.

Brian's *Family Day* was held on Saturday the 11th, and for a first-time event, got a good crowd out to the hangar. Besides getting coffee, cokes and snacks, visiting members had the chance to talk with department heads and volunteers about both the work and fun that goes on at the hangar. To make a long story short, the parking lots were full, over four hundred members showed up, and a few new volunteers signed on.

Successes:
- Free donuts will pack them in at the hangar (no surprise there!);
- The large turnout (both here, and for April's *Polishing Party*) tells us that members like having members-only events; and
- The department heads that made themselves available picked up volunteers.

Shortcomings:
- Not enough department heads were available to talk to perspective volunteers.

Lessons learned:
- Get specific commitments from more department heads ahead of time.

The second event, the first annual *Spring Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue*, was held on the evening of May 11th. My goal was to thank both those volunteers and their family members who've helped keep Willow Run division going over the winter months. We served a catered barbecue dinner, and 10 shirts from the museum store were given away as door prizes. About 80-85 volunteers and guests attended, and everyone seemed to have a great time.

While several department heads got me lists of invitees on time, some didn't get them in until the last minute, and a few never submitted them at all. My requests weren't clear enough, and a lot of last minute phone calls were made to see who was coming.

For those who should have been invited and weren't, please accept my apologies. I've kept the lists I received, and those individuals who were missed this time around will be included in this fall's event.

Successes:
- Several members commented on how much they appreciated being thought of, with over 95% of the contacted members attending; and
- Since most volunteers only work a few specific days of the week, several members met other volunteers for the first time.

Shortcomings:
- My requests to the department heads weren't clear enough; and
- Not nearly enough volunteers were specifically invited.

Lessons learned:
- Get specific written instructions out earlier, to make sure everyone is on the same wavelength;
- Ensure the overlooked spring volunteers are invited in the fall; and
- Get more help in advance.

The last event was our annual Memorial Day Open House on the 27th, which was a big success. Thanks again to the efforts of **Debbie Stewart**, **Renda Oakes**, and their crews, we served breakfast and lunch to a very large crowd.

Unfortunately, Capt. Thomas Murphy, U.S. Army, Ret., crashed the party early on. Breakfast got off to a late start, due to a power failure at the airport. For the most part, the crowd took the blackout in stride. A large number waited until 9:30, when power was restored, and the grill was lit.

Also, thanks to **Bette Watson**, we held a very moving memorial service. The highlights included eight AT-6's (led by **Jim Greeson**) performing the *Missing Man* formation during the flag raising ceremony, and **Thomas Cedel** speaking about the history and importance of Memorial Day.

Later that afternoon, we also dedicated the Victory Garden (located on the south side of the hangar), which will be worked on by several area groups.

Good job, folks!

Successes:
- Improved media coverage brought an increased crowd; and
- Increased community involvement is getting our name out.

Shortcomings:
- We weren't prepared for the blackout.

Lessons learned:
- Buy a heavy-duty generator that can easily handle the power demands of our assorted events and activities; and
- Continuing to buy the equipment that we used to rent, will save us money in the long run.

Each of these events will be repeated in the future, and with planning, will keep getting better. If you've got any suggestions for improving these events, or have anything else you'd like to discuss, please feel free to e-mail me at:

jon_stevens_77@worldnet.att.net

Until next month, let's keep talking, and keeping 'em flying!

CONNIE'S CORNER

by
Connie Kosek

The Fourth of July, Independence Day, is here! For many years, especially when I was growing up in Detroit, Michigan, I thought of the Holiday as parades, picnics, fireworks, watermelon and mid- summer fun. However, after September 11, 2001, and then receiving a letter from YAF member, Gerry Grab, WR 3028 – a letter that changed my life, I realized that there were some things I simply took for granted. Like – my freedom.

The letter I received was written by Senator John McCain, who represents Arizona in the U.S. Senate, and a former POW in the Vietnam War for 5 ½ years.

McCain tells the story of Mike Christian, a young Navy flier from Selma Georgia, who was put in McCain's cell in 1971 with 30 – 40 other POW's. At first they were not allowed any privileges, but later in a package that the NVA allowed as part of the change in treatment, were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing.

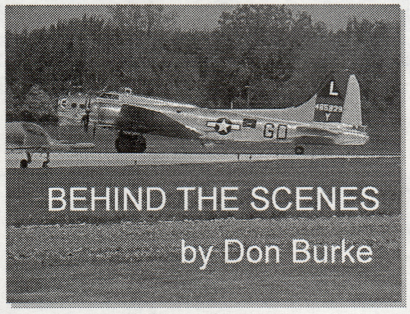
Mike got possession of a bamboo needle and over a period of several months, Mike created our American flag out of some of the items and sewed it on the inside of his shirt.

According to McCain, every afternoon while the POW's were eating a bowl of soup, they would hang Mike's shirt on the wall and say the Pledge of Allegiance. It was indeed the most important and meaningful event of every day. One day, on a periodical check of their cell, Mike's shirt with the American flag sewn inside was discovered. For the benefit of all the prisoners, he was severely beaten and thrown back into the cell, where everyone helped clean him up as best they could. Later, with both of Mike's eyes swollen almost completely shut from the beatings, and using the dim light in his cell, he sat with some red and white cloth making another American flag.

So, dear friends, the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, close your eyes and picture Mike's shirt with our American flag sewn inside it – hanging in a prison cell. Make it an important part of your day.

Many thanks to all the POW's and those who survived, like Ex-POW, and Yankee member, Irwin Welling of WWII, who was shot down in Germany in his B17. Mr. Welling is of the Maumee Valley Chapter of the American Ex-prisoners of War. God bless him and God Bless America!

*Special thanks to **Gerald Grab** 3028 WR who shared Senator McCain's letter with all of us.*



One of the main money makers for Yankee Air Museum is our B-17 flight experience [FLEX RIDE] program. On each flight we can take up to nine passengers at $400 each, for a total of up to $3,600 each flight. It takes a lot of people to make this a success. Our Flight Department, led by **Dave Sunday**, must provide two pilots for each flight. Aircraft Maintenance, led by **Barry Vance** and **Norm Ellickson**, makes sure that the aircraft is ready to go. If not, they have a crew of people who make any repairs necessary. But all this would go for naught without the work of one member working quietly in the background. Each week this lady picks up a list of people who want take a flight, and starts making phone calls. To get nine people to go, she may have to make fifty phone calls, playing phone tag, etc. The calls are made day and evening, just about every day of the week. And she handles all the last minute changes! My hat goes off to **Nina Smith**, who has done this thankless job for the past three years. Thank you, Nina, from me personally and for the entire Museum!

The irony of it all

A voice mail message, on the Library phone, awaited me on an April Tuesday morn. A gentleman wondered if the YAF had any information about a General Nathan Bedford Forrest III assigned to the 8th Air Force. A quick perusal of books about the 8th Air Force revealed only one reference to Gen. N.B. Forrest.

The Mighty Eighth, by Roger A. Freeman, mentioned his brief carrier. To quote Mr. Freeman "...38-year-old General assigned to command a new provisional combat wing...in June 1943...an observer...target was Kiel... the attack left the General's aircraft trailing smoke... regained its position to lead the 95th over the target...last seen spiraling down...engine in flames and much of the tailplane shot away...General Forrest was the first US General to become a combat casualty in Europe."

Returning the telephone call, I relayed the above information to Mr. Stan White. His response, in general, was that he had contacted other aviation museums, including the USAF Museum in Dayton for this information without success. Isn't it ironic that the Yankee Air Museum is where I found information about the ancestor of one of the Confederacy's most famous generals. You see I'm a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. We will be presenting an award to an AFROTC Cadet at Michigan State this month.

Isn't it ironic because the YAF will be presenting our *"Liberator"* award to AFROTC Cadet **Adam P. Karabelski** at the University of Michigan, also this month, I replied.

Mr. Smith wondered if there was some way he could enhance his award such as a free pass to the YAF. We would be happy to have the Cadet as a guest was my reply.

My concept developed along the following lines. Both organizations present their awards. As an enhancement to the award the YAF will provide a flight in our B-17 to both Cadets. The U of M AFROTC contact, **Major Robbin Wimmler**, thinks this is a great idea. Contacts with the State AFROTC are in the works for their input. Conversations with **Roger Peterson**, who presented the Marine Corps ROTC award — an engraved K-BAR knife —- as well as the *"Liberator"* award, and involving **Gayle Roberts-Walker,** among others, expanded the idea to incorporate the issuing of a 1940-50s era flight suit or perhaps a flight jacket to each Cadet, which must be worn on the flight.

The irony of it all is that the *"Yankees"* and the *"Confederates"* will be presenting awards at Michigan and arch rival State to AFROTC Cadets who volunteered to defend the UNITED States of America. And, isn't that what this country is all about!

— ***Erwin Stirnweis***
Librarian

ABOUT OUR COVER PHOTO:

The **Aichi D3A** ***"Val"*** **Dive Bomber**

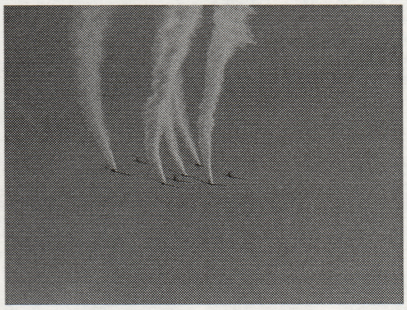
was the first type of Japanese aircraft to go into combat against the American base at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, and 126 *Vals* took part that morning. Protected by the seemingly invincible *Zero* fighter, this dive bomber wiped out many Allied surface vessels. By 1944, *Vals* were used by Kamikaze suicide pilots as our Allied forces continued their drive toward Japan.

The *Val* replica shown here, off the wing of our C-47 during last August's *Gathering of Fighters,* is owned and flown by Ken Laird of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Many thanks

to YAF member #5339 WR ***Bob Paul*** *and his father for their excellent presentation at our June General Membership Meeting: personal color slides with Bob's narration, followed by black-&-white film showing life at our A-4 Skyhawk base at Chu-Lai, Vietnam in 1965, where Bob served with the USMC.*

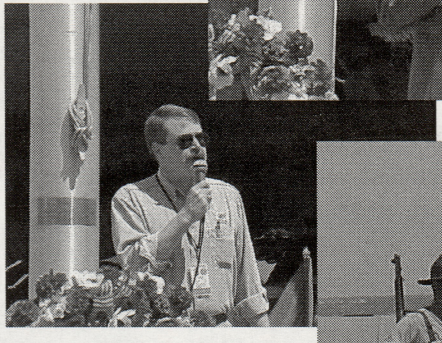
Semper Fi

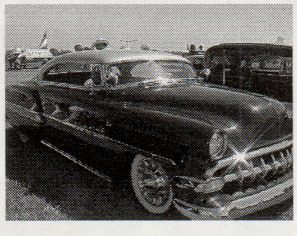


Photos by
YAF Junior Member
Ted Drews
#5636 WR

MEMORIAL DAY

at Yankee Air Museum
Monday 27 May 2002



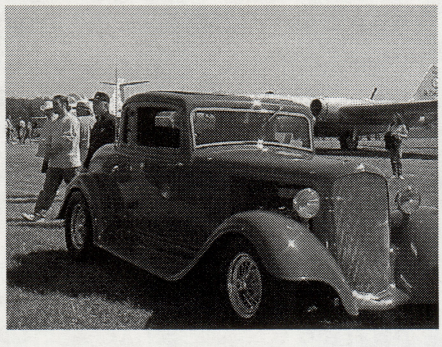


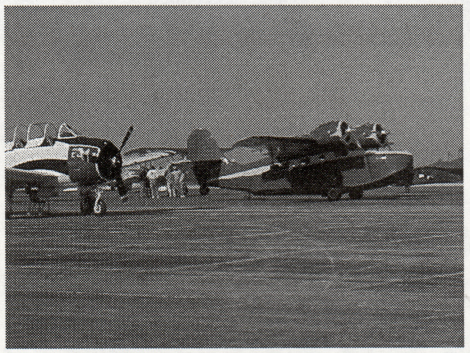
THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:

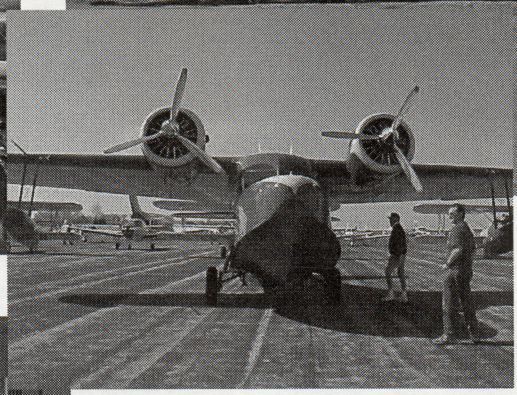
T-6 Texans in flight, Dog Tag Team, Ypsilanti Community Orchestra, our C-47, antique automobiles on display, President Jon Stevens introducing Col. Tom Cedel USAF (Ret.)

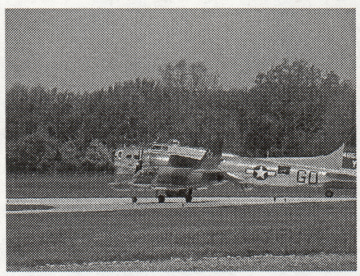
FACING PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:

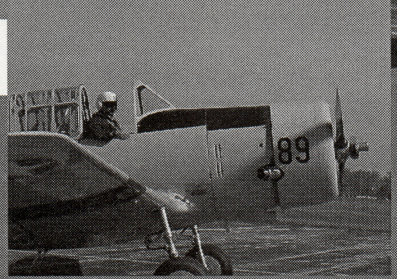
Visiting aircraft on the ramp, flag ceremony, our B-17 with L-39 Albatros, The Michigan Stearmans, Vultee SNV (BT-13 Valiant), Ypsilanti Community Orchestra, historic uniforms and equipment on display, Grumman Goose

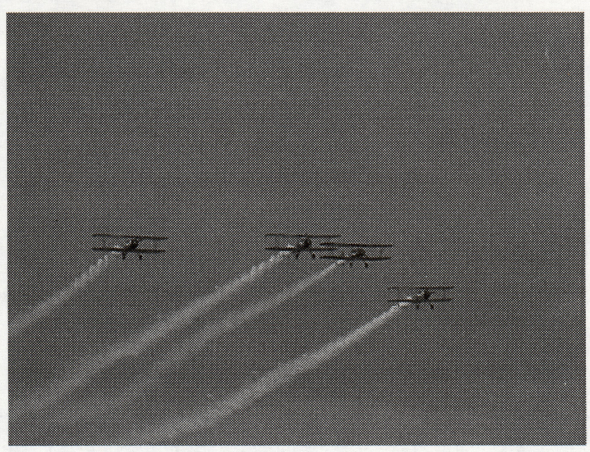










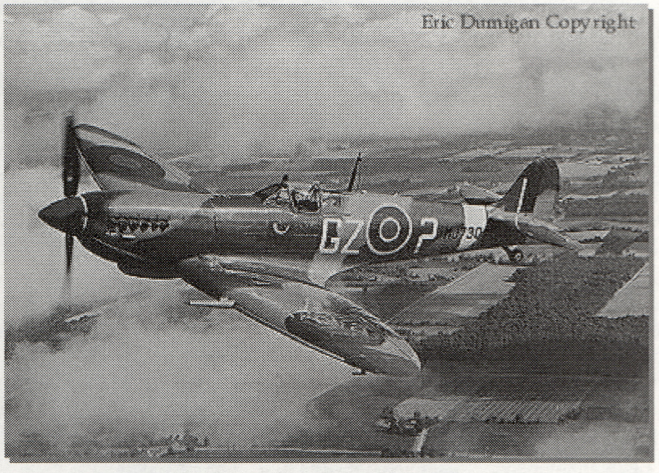


THE YANKEE AIR MUSEUM
PRESENTS

AIR DISPLAY 2002

Salute to Freedom

Saturday August 3rd & Sunday August 4th



Large variety of aircraft from World War II to present day including:

P-51 Mustangs (3)	C-1A Trader	AD-4 Skyraider	Spitfire (2)
P-47 Thunderbolts (2)	B-17G Flying Fortress	C-121 Constellation	Hurricane
B-25 Mitchells (7)	C-47D Skytrain	F4U Corsair (2)	Lancaster (SUNDAY ONLY)
F/A-18 Hornet	1929 New Standard	TBM-3E Avenger	MiG-17
PT-19 Cornell	AT-6 Texan (3)	T-28 Trojan	SNV-1 (BT-13 Valiant)

Admission:

$10 Adult (17 & up)
$ 5 Members
$ 5 Children (10 -16)
FREE Children (9 & Under)

Hours:

9 AM to 4 PM
Daily

For the latest information and complete aircraft listing see our web site *http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org* or call (734) 483-4030 Ext 200

THE YANKEE AIR MUSEUM PRESENTS

WORLD WAR II AVIATION SYMPOSIUM

Doolittle Raiders

Saturday, August 3rd 2002

Join us Saturday August 3rd after the Air Display for the
Fourth Annual WW II Aviation Symposium.
Our guest speakers this year will be some of the ***Doolittle Raiders***
talking about their historic mission 60 years ago.

The ***Doolittle Raiders*** scheduled to appear are:

- Col. Richard E. Cole (Co-pilot on Doolittle's aircraft)
- Lt. Col. Harry C. McCool (Navigator of Plane # 4)
- Maj. Thomas C. Griffin (Navigator of Plane # 9)

Doors open at 5:30 PM
Dinner begins at 6:00 PM
Presentation begins at 7:00 PM

TICKETS: $45 in advance
$55 at the door
IF STILL AVAILABLE !

Symposium Tickets include Dinner and Admission
to both days of Air Display 2002 August 3rd and 4th

Limited number of tickets are available through the ***Yankee Air Museum Shop***.
- *VISA* or *MasterCard* **charge by phone** — please call **(734) 483-4030 Ext 202**
- Checks should be made payable to ***YANKEE AIR FORCE, INC.***

and mailed to
Yankee Air Museum
Attention: Symposium Tickets
P.O. Box 590
Belleville MI 48112-0590

For the latest information see our web site: ***http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org*** or call (734) 483-4030 Ext 200

LET'S GO FOR A RIDE !

Join other YAF members on a flight to exciting places in our C-47

In order to involve more members in YAF flying activities, we are offering one-day excursions in our C-47 to places of interest. This will be done under a shared expense provision which the FAA allows private owners of airplanes, like the Yankee Air Force, to charge for airplane operations to cover expenses. Below are the dates, destinations and cost for each person on the trip. Everyone flying must be a current Yankee Air Force member.

This program is turning out to be very popular. Sign up now to enjoy the fun of a C-47 excursion*!*

Day & Date		Location		Round Trip Cost
Saturday	8-10	Hamilton, Ontario, Canada	CANADIAN WARPLANE HERITAGE MUSEUM	$95
Sunday	8-11	Oscoda, Michigan	WURTSMITH AFB MUSEUM	SOLD OUT
Tuesday	8-13	Kalamazoo, Michigan	AIR ZOO MUSEUM	$55
Tuesday	9-10	Dayton, Ohio	USAF MUSEUM at WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB	SOLD OUT
Wednesday	9-11	Dayton, Ohio	USAF MUSEUM at WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB	SOLD OUT
Thursday	9-12	Dayton, Ohio	USAF MUSEUM at WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB	$80
DATE TO BE DETERMINED		Oshkosh, Wisconsin	EAA MUSEUM [NOT DURING ANNUAL FLY-IN]	$175-$200

Fare covers only air transportation. Admission to museums not included in round trip cost.
Flights will depart from the YAF hangar at 9:00 AM and return before dark.
There must be at least 12 but no more than 18 YAF members scheduled for each trip.
To reserve a place on one of these adventures, complete the form below and mail to the address indicated.
Your check or credit card information must be enclosed to reserve seats on each desired trip.
Seats are first-come first-served*!* If demand is great enough, additional trips may be planned.

NAME _____ YAF Member # _____ PHONE ____ - ____ - _____

NAME _____ YAF Member # _____ PHONE ____ - ____ - _____

DATE of TRIP _____ HOW MANY SEATS? ____ x COST EACH _____ = TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

For CREDIT CARD charges: (Circle one) Visa MasterCard # _____ Exp Date _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Yankee Air Force reserves the right to cancel any of these excursions at any time and refund the participant the amount they have paid.

MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

C-47 Excursion Program

Attn: Randy Hotton
Yankee Air Force
P O Box 590
Belleville MI 48112-0590

RANDY HOTTON will answer questions at:
(734) 547-7244 DAYS
(734) 697-4754 EVENINGS

We're Growing Our Share

As I was working late one night, cutting grass and repairing one of the lawn machines, I got the craziest idea.

What if we were to plant a garden? I told myself that I was just tired, but the idea stuck in my head so I mentioned it to **Mary Jane Medlock** and she thought it was a good idea. We talked to **Gayle Roberts-Walker**, our museum curator, and the idea of a **Victory Garden** as a living exhibit of the "Home Front" display came to life.

After getting the blessing of our President **Jon Stevens**, we discussed how we would put this idea into motion. It was decided that I would make contact with the local 4-H. After some searching, I found an e-mail address and wrote a letter. A couple of weeks passed and I received an e-mail from Amas Aduviri of the *Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Program.* Amas was very excited, as a group who wanted a project for the summer had just contacted him.

More e-mails and several phone calls later, we brought our teams together for a meeting here at the hangar. Attending were Amas Aduviri of MSUE, T. Rose Roane of JOSHUA (Joint Operational Services for a Humane Urban Alliance), Ravon Gardner of YES (an extension of JOSHUA), and Amanda Edmonds of the Perry Learning Garden. Representing the Yankee Air Museum were **Mary Jane Medlock**, **Guy Bunyea**, **Aaron Peters**, and myself, **Clay Jones, Jr.**

On this past Memorial Day, the youth of St. Mary's Baptist Church came out and joined the team. These youth will be responsible for the planting and care of the Victory Garden, and as reward for their hard work, they alone will reap the harvest.

After eating their fill of hot dogs and looking around for awhile, it was time to say a prayer for the success of the garden and take a group photo before heading home. Shortly after our young guests departed, the official ceremony was held. Jon Stevens, Amanda Edmonds, Amas Aduviri, and Gayle Roberts-Walker with an honor guard turned the first shovel of soil and christened it with water.

Yankee Air Museum is sponsoring this Victory Garden as a community youth outreach program intended to educate the youth participating. My wish is that our members will give this program their full support.

Thank you from groundskeeper ***Clay Jones, Jr.***
G 6720 WR

HELP needed!!! August 3-4 Sat - Sun with Air Display Concessions. Call Debbie Stewart @ 734-697-8297 or Mary Jane Medlock @ 734-330-6915 to seriously commit before July 11.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE CONCERNING PAID MUSEUM EMPLOYEES

The Board has reluctantly agreed to hire a limited number of part-time employees.

There has been some misunderstanding about this situation. We are a volunteer organization by necessity and by choice. We have developed due to the very great efforts of a lot of very fine and dedicated volunteers.

The problem is when a job must be done and nobody will volunteer to do the work. A critical job requires the filling of the position. The only option is to pay for the work to be done.

It is reasonable to question why you should donate your time when someone else is being paid with your membership dues. We all realize that YAF cannot survive without substantial donated time. There is no point in destroying many years of hard work and accomplishments. This Museum is our monument for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. The fact that few if any members will volunteer for a position is an indication of the difficulty of the job. YAF members are in this for the love of aviation. If they wanted money, they would be elsewhere. There is a special relationship among volunteers that can never be matched in the time clock environment.

The immediate problem at hand is our Museum Shop. It must be open during museum hours. The manager has told us since November that he cannot keep it open each day due to lack of volunteers. We can despair over a lack of help, or wish some recruiting plan might work. Neither has resulted in solving the problem. The first Sunday in June, the Shop never opened. Between $500-$700 income was lost. Visitors traveled from Rochester and beyond to be turned away. Do you think they will ever visit us again? The Shop had to remain closed again that Friday.

We can minimize this problem if each of you will redouble your effort to volunteer. You can make a difference. The Yankee Air Force needs your help now!

Brian Higgins, YAF Board of Directors

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